

## A TILE FOR THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER

I am a mental patient, (they call us that)  
And I have painted on a tile an orange cat  
Sitting in a bed of flowers. They look  
Like tulips, and all of them are colored the exact  
Same orange as the cat. We are allowed to paint  
Whatever things we want to at O.T.  
(O.T. means Occupational Therapy;  
We have it every Thursday at the shop.)

Last week one of the doctors talked to me  
About the cat. He said, look at his face,  
And when I looked, he said, what do you see?  
I said, the orange cat I painted. But  
The doctor said, he looks like you, he has  
Your face, just look again. I tried to see  
What he could mean but all I saw was just  
An orange cat. Its fur was colored just  
The same as all the tulips where it sat.

They sold the tile today to Doctor  
Jackson's daughter; it's like a real store now.  
I heard her tell her mother, what a nice tile,  
It looks just like the kitten Rainbow had.  
Yes, her mother said, while I wrapped it up  
For them. They didn't look at me, just at  
The tile. And I know why, because I don't  
Look like a cat. The doctor must be wrong.

*Florence Victor*